

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently active.

The Examiner has objected to the claims for various informalities. The claims have been amended to obviate these informalities. The length indicator is appended to each stripe since only the stripes are sent within the switch.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 and 7-13 has been unpatentable over Sindhu in view of Isono. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Office Action in paragraph 4, the Examiner refers to the claim language "the port cards sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet (see figure 3 back data handler 302) to the fabric (see column 6, lines 57-65; data handler 302 of the multi port divides the packets received into fixed length cells and sends to the input switch A1)". It must be stressed that the Examiner has not quoted the claim language properly and has instead misstated the claim language with the limitation "the fabric". The claim language of Claim 1 in pertinent part has the language "the port cards sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet to each of the fabrics" (emphasis added). It is the limitation of "each of the

fabrics" that is missing from the Examiner's statement which is not taught or suggested by the applied art of record.

The Examiner cites column 6, lines 57-65 of Sindhu for teaching the claim limitation of "the port cards sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet to each of the fabrics". Referring to column 6, lines 57-65, Sindhu teaches packets are received at line input interface 300. As the packets are received, data handler 302 divides the packets received into fixed links cells. As the data handler divides the incoming packets into fixed length cells, it synchronously outputs the cells to input switch 100 through input switch interface 304.

As is clear from this teaching of Sindhu, there is only a single switch. Claim 1 of applicants has the limitation of a plurality of fabrics. Moreover, all of the cells taught by Sindhu are sent to the single switch, as shown in figure 38. Furthermore, there are no stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet being sent to each of the fabrics. Each cell taught by Sindhu is being sent to only one switch. The limitation of sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet to each of the fabrics requires a showing in the prior art that some part of each packet is going to each fabric, not to just one switch as taught by Sindhu. Stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet are not simply a stream of cells, as taught by

Sindhu. For all these reasons, Sindhu does not teach or suggest, or have anything at all to do with the limitations of Claim 1.

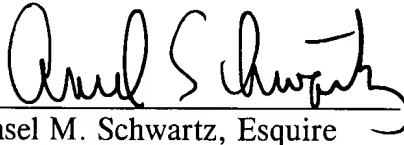
In regard to Isono, the Examiner recognizes that Sindhu only teaches a single fabric, but relies on Isono for the teaching that there is a plurality of fabrics. However, Isono fails to teach anything at all about stripping of the packets let alone sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet to each of the fabrics. This limitation is simply missing from the applied art of record. At best, what the Examiner suggests is the individual stream of cells are sent to one switch while another stream of cells is sent to another switch. But nowhere is there any consideration, teaching or suggestion of taking stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet and sending them to each fabric, which means that each fabric receives a fragment of each packet. Accordingly, the fact that Isono teaches a plurality of fabrics in combination with the teachings of Sindhu still does not arrive at this key limitation, and Claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 2-5 are dependent to parent Claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 7 is patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable. Claims 8-13 are dependent to parent Claim 7 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 7 is patentable. The Examiner has determined that Claims 6 and 14-21 are allowable if rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-21, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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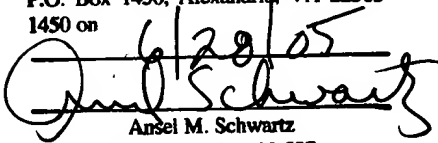
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